



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALIEN SMUGGLER PLEADS GUILTY TO SMUGGLING ALIENS ON GOLDEN STATE BUSES

TUCSON, ARIZONA - Paul K. Charlton, U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona, announced today that Alejandro Herrera-Estrada, aka Chino, aka Homar Tiznado, of Mexico, pled guilty to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens for Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain, in federal district court in Tucson, Arizona.

Alejandro Herrera-Estrada, aka Chino, aka Homar Tiznado, had been charged with violating Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i). Alejandro Herrera-Estrada, aka Chino, aka Homar Tiznado admitted Friday, September 12, 2003, in district court that he and his co-defendants arranged for the transportation of illegal aliens from the Knight's Inn Motel to the Golden State bus terminal on Plumer Avenue. Once the aliens arrived at the terminal, they were loaded onto Golden State buses and transported to various destinations such as Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles. As payment for his involvement in the smuggling operation, Alejandro Herrera-Estrada received large amounts of cash from various Western Union offices located in Tucson, Arizona.

(MORE)

A conviction for Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens for Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), and 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$ 250,000.00 fine or both.

Sentencing is set before Judge Raner C. Collins on November 20, 2003.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The prosecution is being handled by Daniel Santander, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-847-TUC-RCC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-161

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